

# THE SILVER BUGLE



**International Association of  
Silver Art Collectors**

**November 2018  
Volume 34 No. 4**

*Merry Christmas*



[www.thesilverbugle.com](http://www.thesilverbugle.com)

# International Association of Silver Art Collectors

## Established 1985



### OFFICERS

**President: Jim Best**  
Lakeland, FL

**Vice President: Randy Rush**  
Summerville, GA

**Secretary/Treasurer: Carrie Best**  
Lakeland, FL

**Historian: Ed Lantz**  
Springfield, TN

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**Bill Doty** - Phoenix, AZ

**Bruce Holland** - Suffolk, VA

**Sean Page** - Lees Summit, MO

**Mike Sprouse** - Cape Girardeau, MO

**Walter Thomas** - Caladonia, WI

The IASAC newsletter "The Silver Bugle" is published four times/year in February, May, August, November. News, articles, items and potographs pertaining to art bars or rounds are welcome. However, unsolicited material cannot be acknowledged nor returned unless accompanied with a postpaid, self-addressed envelope. Opinions published in articles are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of IASAC.

"The Silver Bugle" accepts advertisements for silver bar and round hobby-related items. The IASAC and advertisers may not be held responsible for a typographical error if any shall occur including price and/or description.

ADVERTISEMENTS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL BE HELD UNTIL THE FOLLOWING PUBLICATION.

### ADVERTISEMENT RATES (per issue)

Full Page - \$25 (non-member \$37.50)

Half Page - \$15 (non-member \$22.50)

Quarter Page - \$10 (non-member \$15)

Classified Page - 25¢ per word (minimum 30 words)

Members receive one FREE 30 word classified advertisement with annual membership; redeemable any time throughout the year.

**Mail all advertisements along with payment to:**

**IASAC**

**PO Box 5202**

**Lakeland, FL 33807-5202**

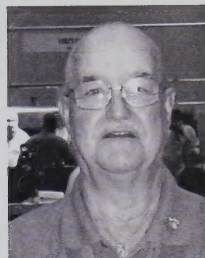
**IASACBugle@aol.com**

**Attn: Carrie Best**

**Next Bugle deadline: January 15, 2018**

Photos taken by Sue Lantz, Diane Austin and Carrie Best

**"My Thoughts"**  
**President - Jim Best**  
**autips@aol.com**  
**863-644-0903**



The annual meeting held in Monroeville, PA (suburb of Pittsburgh) is in the past and the next meeting at the FUN convention in Orlando in January 2019 is well into the planning stages. The PAN organization went out of their way to welcome us to their show and make it a success and to them we give a great big THANK YOU. I would also like to thank Diane & Steve Austin, Sue & Ed Lantz, Teresa & Randy Rush and Sean Page for helping man the club table during the show.

The board meeting and general membership meeting were well attended with good exchange of ideas and direction for the future of the organization. At this meeting the club bar for 2019 was announced. The winner is Sandi Belcher and she will be presented her award winning bar at the next meeting.

At the general membership meeting Steve Austin presented to the organization three (3) dies that he had purchased to be placed in the archives. These items were received by myself and Ed Lantz. Thank you Steve for the presentaion.

Also, at the general membership meeting newly elected trustees Sean Page and Bruce Holland were sworn in for the years 2019-2021. They will be trustees alongside Walter Thomas, Bill Doty and Mike Sprouse.

The next board and general membersip meeting will be held at the FUN convention on Saturday, January 12th. At the wriiting of this article, the room and time have not been finalized. Check the show program or check at the club table in the club section for latest updates. We will also publish it on our website and Facebook page.

That is about all for this issue, hope to see many of you at the January FUN convention, this is a great show with over 600 dealers, so this should be a great time for you to add some items to your collection. Also, bring your family members, as there is lots of things to do in the area. Google it to find out what else you can do in the area while visiting Orlando.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

*Jim*



# VP Outlook

by Randy Rush



Hello to All!

I hope my letter finds you doing well. We are having an extended summer in NW Georgia! We are very blessed in my part on the state because Hurricane Florence really didn't affect us. The Carolina's really got hit hard. My heart goes out to all the people impacted by the storm.

We were worried about the trip to Pittsburgh, (Monroeville), but got really lucky when it slowed way down. Michael is heading into the Gulf of Mexico as I write this. Don't know yet what he has planned. Mother Nature can be rough!

We had a nice time at the convention. It was really good to have so many members, trustee's, and officer's come! congratulations to our **"Price of Silver"** winners! The new contest is out in this issue. Don't delay on sending in your guess. (page 26) **Must be post-marked no later than December 24th, 2018, Christmas Eve.**

We hope to make it to the convention in Orlando, and least for 1 day. Sure hope for another good turnout. Maybe silver will be up and some treasures will be found!

Happy Thanksgiving, and Merry Christmas to everyone! Please remember the "Reason for the Season"! Say a prayer for our service men and women serving here and on foreign soils around the world, and their families who sacrifice so much so we can enjoy our freedom! Our police, fire, EMTs, first responders, our homeless, our poor, and deserving children.

Do something nice for our less fortunate, I bet it will get you in the Christmas Spirit!! Happy Birthday Jesus!!

Until Next Time,  
Randy

rush188@windstream.net,  
or call : 706-766-2335.

*Randy*



## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Welcome to IASAC  
**Bryan Barfknecht**  
**Joshua Martin**  
**Chris Fawber**  
**Jason Keen**  
**William Stambro**  
**Michael A. Lopez, Sr.**  
**Rodney Pike**  
**Jose Narciso**  
**John Hutchisson**  
**Johnathan Cole**  
**Phil Wyatt**  
**Mark A. Gary**  
**Matthew Snyder**  
**Denise Komm**  
**Doug Komm**

Check out our social media:

[TheSilverBugle.com](http://TheSilverBugle.com)

Facebook • IASAC

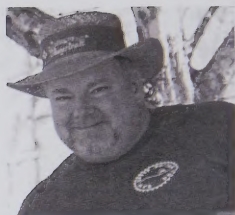
**2019 Club Meeting**  
**will be held in conjunction with**  
**the FUN Coin Show January 10-13**  
**in Orlando, Florida.**

It was voted on by the board to auction off the items that were acquired by the club from member # 25 Charles L. Diehl. Watch in next few Bugles for these items listed. Be sure to get your mail-in bid to Carrie Best/Secretary. Email to [IASACBugle@aol.com](mailto:IASACBugle@aol.com) or PO box 5202, Lakeland, FL 33807-5202. Be sure to include your name and address and phone number along with your bid. Deadlines etc. will be outlined with the item listings. The remaining items acquired were put into the club's archives, as Ed was missing them in the club's archive inventory.

We will be auctioning off only those remaining.



## ...for the funny bone by Randy Rush



### The Turkey, the Parrot and the In-laws

Martha had a parrot called Brutus, the only problem was that Brutus cussed something awful. Now Martha was having her in-laws over for Thanksgiving, and so she needed to train Brutus quickly not to swear. Just before her Mother-in-law was due Brutus cussed terribly, so Martha put him in the freezer for 2 minutes to literally cool off. Then she opened the door and took out the parrot along with the turkey. 'And have you learned your lesson about cussing?' Martha asked the parrot. Brutus the parrot took one look at the dead turkey and said: 'I sure have. But I have one question, "What did the turkey do?"'

### Bigger Turkeys

A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store, but couldn't find one big enough for her family. She asked the stock boy, 'Do these turkeys get any bigger?' The stock boy answered, 'No ma'am, they're dead.'

### Best Funny Christmas Trivia

- Electric lights were first used on Christmas trees in 1895.
- Three people die each year testing if a 9v battery works on their tongue.
- A popular manufactured Christmas fireplace log warns: 'Caution - Risk of Fire'
- Of the presents received at Christmas, one in 10 will be broken by the New Year, only 40% will make it to March and just a quarter will be intact by next Christmas.

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Just before Christmas, an honest politician, a generous lawyer, and Santa Claus were riding in the elevator of a very posh hotel. Just before the doors opened they all noticed a \$20 bill lying on the floor. Which one picked it up? Santa of course, because the other two don't exist!

Until next time.....

*Randy*



# SILVER ART COLLECTOR

[WWW.SILVERARTCOLLECTOR.COM](http://WWW.SILVERARTCOLLECTOR.COM)

Silver Art Collector is an online collection manager and research database for all those in the silver art collecting hobby. It is free to use and growing daily. We have a forum for community discussion and invite you to stop by and introduce yourself. Silver Art Collector is designed and run by collectors for collectors. We are members of IASAC and work closely with mint owners, collectors, authors and others in the hobby to grow and spread the word of silver art collecting to the internet.

Come by and check us out and create a free account to maintain your silver art collection, contribute to our growing research database, and join in the fun on the forums!



[WWW.SILVERARTCOLLECTOR.COM](http://WWW.SILVERARTCOLLECTOR.COM)

## IASAC Mail Bid Auction

These items are from a collection that was acquired by IASAC from Charles L. Diehl. All proceeds go to the club. Send in your highest amount you are willing to pay for these items, more will be in next issue. Be sure to send in form with all details readable. Send your bids to IASACbugle@aol.com or mail to Carrie Best, PO Box 5202, Lakeland, FL 33807-5202. We will accept highest bid as the winner.

**Bidding sheet on next page.**



1. 1986 Liberty enlightens the world - Cancelled Silver S.N. #25



2. 1986 Liberty enlightens the world - Bronze S.N. #25



3. 1986-The White Bengal Tiger - Cancelled Silver S.N. #25



4. 1986-The White Bengal Tiger - Bronze S.N. #25



5. 2003 Denver Convention Silver no S.N.



6. 2003 Denver Convention Bronze no S.N.



7. Officer's Bar - Charles L. Diehl Sgt. at Arms 1995-1996



8. Officer's Bar - Charles L. Diehl Sgt. at Arms 1989-1990



9. 1984 - Chattanooga Convention Silver S.N. #25



## My Mail Bid

Number\_\_\_\_\_ My bid is \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Number\_\_\_\_\_ My bid is \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Member #\_\_\_\_\_

Address:\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ ST\_\_\_\_\_ zip\_\_\_\_\_

### IASAC Treasury Update

Balance Forwarded \$13156.71

Income:

Dues	595.00
2018 Round Sales	2710.50
Store & Mtg. Sales	<u>135.00</u>
	\$3440.50

\$16,597.21

Expenses:

Paypal fees	7.03
ANA Dues (Balance)	16.00
Publishing <i>Silver Bugle</i>	313.23
SilverTowne 2018 Rds and shipping	3690.75
SilverTowne 2019 Bars & die	2764.50
Postage/off supply/domain	<u>162.24</u>
	\$ 6953.75

Ending Balance as of October 8, 2018 \$ 9,643.46

*Carrie Best ♦♦Treasurer/Secretary*

# **River City Coins & Jewelry LLC.**

**Mike Sprouse - Owner**

**Member ANA, IASAC, MNS, TAMS**

**713 Broadway ~ Cape Girardeau, MO 63701**

**Call: 573-334-1108 [rvrcoins@swbell.net](mailto:rvrcoins@swbell.net)**

**Visit us on the web or our retail store in historic Cape Girardeau, Missouri for a huge selection of coins, jewelry and art bars!**

**Our showcases and online stores stock rare silver art saved from the melting pots that would be a welcome addition to any collection!**



**Open since 1986 Mike Sprouse has built a reputation for honesty and fairness. Whether buying or selling a single art bar or a lifetime collection call Mike for a fair and accurate bid.**



**Shane Sprouse specializes in silver bullion, fine jewelry, watches, and electronic sales. We are especially interested in fine silver art, items of historical significance, and rare or unusual tokens, medals, and exonumia.**

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**[http://www.  
Rivercitycoins.com](http://www.Rivercitycoins.com)**

**[stores.ebay.com  
/numiscellaneous](http://stores.ebay.com/numiscellaneous)**



## W.H. FOSTER SILVER INGOTS....

By Josh Martin #972

This past year there has been some new trends developing within the vintage silver collector community. Attention and focus has been shifting slightly off of the major names such as Engelhard and Johnson Matthey. Smaller US mines and refiners have come into the picture.

A few examples of some of the break out ingots of 2017 and 2018.

- WH Foster
- SMITHS
- IPM
- Consolidated Mines and Metals
- Hercaimy
- Spokane Bullion Co.
- Bunker Hill

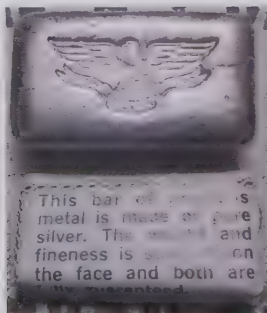
Last year I really made it a point to work on building a strong WH Foster collection. I found some great ingots! Going to share a few photos.



TYPE 1 HALLMARK 2.68 OZ  
INGOT



TYPE 1 HALLMARK 5.12 OZ  
SILVER INGOT



^ TYPE 1 HALLMARK 2.68 OZ INGOT

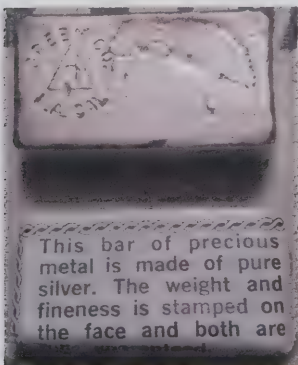
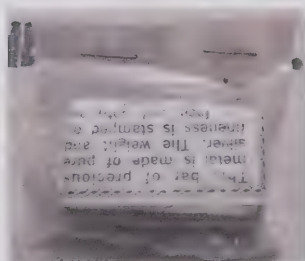
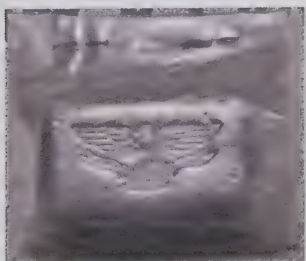
continued on next page



## W.H. FOSTER SILVER INGOTS....

continued from previous page

Notice the difference between the two hallmarks. Type 1 having a ribbon underneath the eagle that does not have a weight in it. The type 2 hallmarks all have a weight with in the ribbon. Seen in 3, 5, 8, 10 and 12 oz weight classes so far. It has been thought they used the type 2 hallmarks on even weight ingots. Then the type 1 hallmarks on the odd weight ingots. What was interesting about the 3 oz type 2 ingot shown above... the packaging.



Possibly in original packaging. These bars have been dated back to the 1960s. The plastic around this ingot is very old. Certainly has the wear and tear one should. The staples holding it closed are colored as well. Original assay cert included within the packaging and ingot. Aside from packaging this Green Co. Counter stamp around the Deak triangle has been a new addition to the recorded varieties. Still a mystery as to what Green Co. stands for. The stamp shows reference to L.A. CAL.

Assuming that would be Los Angeles, California. Since the 3oz. discovery there has been a 5oz with the Green Co. counter stamp.

I figured this would be a good information for those not familiar with W.H. Foster ingots. Prices are setting new records as time goes on. End of last year there was a public auction where a 10oz Type 2 sold for \$1,400 USD. 8oz Type 2 sold for \$3,000 USD. Odd Weight 24.40oz Type 1 sold for \$3,830 USD.

It's great to see this level of collectability on other smaller refiners! Always keep your eyes out at the local coin shops (LCS). I've seen so many \$1 over spot purchases turn into thousands of dollars in profits...

The End

## MYSTERY OF THE FIELD



**BOTTOM TWO PICTURES ARE OBVERSE AND REVERSE  
OF THE MLM-13F ERROR CUD**

For many years people have wondered about the Reno Nevada Mother-lode Mint MLM-13s no field vs field Silver art bars. On these bars the first mintage was only 98 on which the obverse had the word "field" as in MLM-13F and MLM-13FV. Why did they only strike 98 and then switch to unlimited open mintage on the no field variety?

Due to the keen eye of Brian Raines last year a die break cud was found. I was attending a coin show and Brian, who is an expert in error coinage, was set up in the bourse. I walked by and while scanning the tables for silver bars, sure enough, the error art bar. I asked him about the error bar and he explained the error to me and I explained the art bar to him. I explained the situation with the field versus no field to him and Brian explained in greater details the cud error and how that happened to me. Apparently, the field Reno Nevada was the first die and being that 98 were struck this would be either the 98th or the 99th depending on how they counted. This was the last bar ever struck with that die.

With Reno, poker and gambling being a very popular theme then as it still is today and being these dies were hand cut and difficult to make exact replicas of it appears they decided to change the die to create a separate and distinguishable art bar variety. They added the poker chip stacks along with the 6-8 in the right lower corner onto the second die and continued to strike more bars.

This find goes to show the overlap between coin collecting and art bar collecting we all have seen and experienced throughout the years. Brian and I have spoken and hung out at shows since then and along with becoming friends have explained each other's hobbies to one another over dinner.

PS I was fortunate enough that he sold me the cud error for my collection.

**By Stephen Austin #786**

## By Stephen Austin #786

Had a “BLAST” in Monroville, PA during the PAN show.

Old friends were in abundance and new friends were welcomed with open arms. We had 15 in attendance for dinner on Thursday night at Applebees and 14 on Friday night at the



W o o d e n  
Nickel. We  
had our own  
dining room on



Friday night.



Steve Austin donates 1990, 1991 and 1993 dies back to IASAC. historian Ed Lantz accepts. Jim Best, president thanks Steve for his generosity. 3 dies back where they belong, in the archives.



# Shirts for Sale

Randy Rush, vice president found a great deal for club shirts. IASAC makes nothing on these. If you are a current member you can order shirts any color or style with the IASAC logo and your name on the shirt.



Send your order directly to: Jo Ann Durbin  
4699 Calhoun Rd. NE, Rome, GA 30161 or  
Call: 706-409-0273.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Shirt Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: \_\_\_\_\_

(BlueGeneration.com)

Long Sleeve/Short Sleeve (circle one)

Polo/Button Up (circle one)

Squared Bottom Y/N (circle one)

Name on Shirt \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print)

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

## Pricing

### Button Up

S-XL - \$32.00

XXL - \$34.00

### Polo w/pocket

S-XL - \$20.00

XXL - \$22.00

### Polo w/o pocket

S-XL - \$20.00

XXL - \$22.00



California Raisins?



Lot's of Advertising



IASAC Board Meeting



Officers and Trustees at PAN Show

# Brain Teaser

Hope everyone enjoyed working the last puzzle. If you have any comments you can send them via email to [IASACBugle@aol.com](mailto:IASACBugle@aol.com). HAVE FUN!!! Carlton has done another terrific job. These are all items having to do with Halloween. Enjoy! There is a word that forms a rectangle.

-----

For your challenge this month, find these words relating to:

**"Halloween Fun"** Please find:

**Apple Dunking, Bat, Black Cat, Boo, Broomstick, Candy, Cauldron, Costume, Creepy, Dracula, Eerie, Fun House, Ghost, Ghoul, Ha Ha Ha Ha, Haunted, Jack O Lantern, Mask, Mischief, Pumpkin, Punch, Quake, Skeleton, Sleepy Hollow, Spider, Spook, Transylvania, Trick or Treat, Witch, Zombie**

Is there any word that appears twice? \_\_\_\_\_

**"GHOULED LUCK" EVERYONE!**

P	O	L	S	T	U	T	I	Y	O	A	N	A	D	N	C
M	V	M	H	P	V	A	B	K	O	O	P	S	Y	A	D
A	K	S	N	N	I	K	P	M	U	P	B	Y	U	S	N
S	E	Z	O	N	J	D	W	K	L	V	M	L	F	T	T
K	L	E	T	C	R	Q	E	E	J	C	D	T	W	R	S
C	R	E	E	P	Y	E	D	R	K	R	W	J	A	I	O
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B	T	S	Q	P	N	U	Q	N	K	C	S	W	D	K	G
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C	H	N	U	P	M	T	O	V	O	Z	O	A	I	T	U
K	G	A	Q	N	S	E	A	L	Z	U	O	K	S	R	L
C	V	W	H	M	T	N	J	B	L	Q	S	E	C	E	Y
A	M	J	O	A	I	E	I	B	M	O	Z	E	H	A	C
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D	R	A	C	U	L	A	K	Y	V	S	N	I	E	S	D
B	W	I	Y	S	Y	M	H	C	T	I	W	E	F	C	N

# GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

September 14, 2018

Meeting was called to order by President, Jim Best at 2:40pm. Jim presented PAN president, Tom Uram a thank you certificate and a 2018 silver annual round for their hospitality to IASAC.

Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer by Randy Rush

Jim Best swore in two new Trustees, Sean Page and Bruce Holland

Jim introduced all officer and trustees, then asked everyone to introduce themselves and where they are from and what their collecting interests are.

There is to be a silent auction at end of meeting. See Randy Rush if you have anything you want to enter. Club gets 20%, seller gets 80%. Or you can donate entire amount to the club.

Minutes of Denver meeting were posted in the Bugle. Chris Drugan made a motion to accept. Steve 2nd. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

No correspondence at this time.

Treasurer's report was posted in August Bugle. Motion by Ed Lantz to accept. 2nd by Cris Drugan. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Price of Silver Contest was read by Randy Rush. Silver closed at \$14.51  
First Place - Doug Jennings @ \$14.92 - Silver Congratulations Bar  
Second Place- William Doty \$15.08 - Silver Congratulations Bar  
Third Place - Dave & Sandi Belcher \$15.16 - One year membership  
Next guess the price of silver contest will be for closing of Silver on December 31.

No Kidd-Rood writing contest this year.

Mintage of this years rounds by Ed Lantz: 47 Enameled and 78 Silver. Total of 125.

Assignments: Same as last year with changes of :

Website/Facebook Ed Lantz, Cris Drugan and Sean Page

New Releases: Sean Page

Annual Bars/Rounds update: Steve Austin

Bugle Editor: Carrie Best and Diane Austin, with Diane taking over after helping Carrie with next two issues.

Jim then presented the officers and trustees with their thank you rounds.

Randy explained about the new shirts that can be ordered. Club makes nothing off this, you just order straight from the source.

Next year's meeting will be in conjunction with the FUN show. They provide us with a free table and a meeting room.

Auction will end in 15 minutes after adjournment. Randy made a motion to adjourn. Sue Lantz 2nd. Jim adjourned the meeting.

Respectively submitted: Carrie I. Best, Secretary/Treasurer



## FROM THE BEGINNING XVII

By Ed Lantz

***IASACBugle@aol.com***



Two new members of note were Al Lo and Larry Armstrong, two really great members over the years.

The Silver Mine issued "Stormin Norman" Schwarzkopf rectangle. 300 Max. mintage with 75 bronze. Issue price was \$22.50 and \$7.50 for the bronze or \$29.50 for the matching set.-----IASAC had a full page ad thanking J. Archie Kidd for giving IASAC a full page ad in the fifth edition of An Indexed Guide Book of Silver art Bars.-----E. J. Aleo advertised Desert Storm, America at War for \$29 or 14 Karat Gold for \$325. They donated \$5 for the sale of each item to the Disabled American Veterans.-----C. W. Schmudlach advertised 10 Madison Bars for \$70. 10 USSC Bars for \$75, 10 Hamilton Bars for \$80. Like they say, You snooze, you lose!

It cost 30 cents to mail the 24 page July 1991 Silver Bugle.

E. J. Aleo joined IASAC. That is very cool.

Joe DeSilva #218 sent in a picture of him with President Ronald Reagan.

Dennis Lotspeich #18 wrote a great article Where Should I Store My Valuables (Bank vs. Home)--Please email edlantz2001@yahoo.com and request it if you would like to have a copy of it.

"1841" had a full page ad to order the Indy 500 Diamond Jubilee Commemorative for \$34.50 in a suede-like custom booklet with 16 colored pages.

Silversword Productions was celebrating Christmas in July with the Mele Kalikimaka issue for \$17.50 and an additional \$6 for the bronze.

There were 11 silver design entries for the 1991 Long Beach Convention Rectangle with Nancy Yee having the winning art work. That is really a great participation in the contest.

San Diego Zoo and Coors Light Silver Bullet were advertised for \$9 each. "You snooze, you lose."

Please consider writing an article for The Silver Bugle. We have so many knowledgeable members. Show them about so many aspects of this great hobby, and lots of newer members that are interested in learning as much as they can.

There was also a little space filler with an American Flag saying DO A FRIEND A FAVOR. Introduce them to IASAC. Show them your Silver Bugle.

Until next time!

# **An Official Statue of Liberty Centennial Medal**

By Dave Provost, Member #957

The Statue of Liberty, a gift from the people of France to the people of the United States, was dedicated on October 28, 1886 on Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor. President Grover Cleveland was on hand to officially accept France's gift and to lead the formal dedication ceremonies.

As he concluded his brief speech, Cleveland stated:

"We will not forget that Liberty has here made her home, nor shall her chosen altar be neglected. Willing votaries will constantly keep its fires and these shall gleam upon the shores of our sister Republic thence, and joined with answering rays a stream of light shall pierce the darkness of ignorance and man's oppression, until Liberty enlightens the world."

Unfortunately, in the decades that followed, the physical architecture of the Statue of Liberty would not age as gracefully as hoped. By the 1970s, the Statue was showing distinct signs of neglect and deterioration. A full analysis of the condition of the Statue revealed that its overall internal iron framework was showing signs of fatigue, the iron straps used to connect the Statue's copper skin to the internal framework were often severely corroded and the outer copper skin was pitted and holed due to nearly a century of exposure to corrosive salt air. It was clear that the Statue was in major need of restoration and repair and that tens of millions of dollars would be needed to finance the efforts.

In April 1982, President Ronald Reagan commissioned the non-profit Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc. (SOLEIF) to oversee the restoration and ongoing preservation of the Statue of Liberty and the Ellis Island complex. At Reagan's request, Lee Iacocca, who was the Chairman of Chrysler Corporation at the time, assumed the leadership role of the Foundation.

In addition to its project management responsibilities, the SOLEIF also became a very active fundraiser for the project. Many collectors are aware of the 1986 three-coin (gold half eagle, silver dollar and copper-nickel clad half dollar) commemorative coin program sponsored by the SOLEIF to help it raise funds, but this was only one avenue the Foundation pursued.

The SOLEIF recruited corporate sponsors, launched several grass roots fundraising campaigns directed at the American public and licensed its official logo for use on a variety of products and souvenirs. Before it was through, nearly 100 companies received a license and roughly 1,000 individual products were released in the lead up to the centennial celebrations held on July 4, 1986. The SOLEIF collected licensing fees on all the products. Ultimately, over \$250 million were raised for the centennial restoration projects.

Included within the more than 200 categories of licensed products were multiple commemorative medals that were produced from authentic material that was removed from the Statue during its restoration/renovation.

The most common of these officially-licensed medals are the copper medals struck on planchets that are either fully or partially made of metal taken from the Statue. Most of these medals were produced under the license obtained by the Gold Leaf Corporation. The company produced medals of various sizes as well as jewelry and personal accessory items.

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## An Official Statue of Liberty Centennial Medal

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*Obverse (left) and reverse of Gold Leaf "Authentic Material" commemorative medal.*

My focus here, however, is on a 0.999 fine silver medal produced by the Liberty Commemorative Project Ltd., a company formed by former executives of the Franklin Mint to develop and market the commemorative medal. The medal is described as "An Official Issue" by its promoter. As the medal was produced with the full cooperation of the SOLEIF, donated a portion of its proceeds to the SOLEIF and included a Certificate of Authenticity "signed" by Chairman Lee Iacocca with each piece, such a claim is well-founded.

The obverse of the medal presents a full-length view of the Statue of Liberty at its center with a depiction of the Great Hall (the primary immigration processing site) on Ellis Island at the left and the skyline of Lower Manhattan on the right; as the medal was designed/produced in 1985-86, the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center figure prominently in the design. The obverse also features the dual commemorative dates "1886 – 1986."



*(left) and reverse of SOLEIF "Official Medal."*

*I believe the design very effectively conveys the arrival experience of immigrants to America. The Statue of Liberty presents a message of freedom and hope and opportunity, Ellis Island represents the important first stop and gateway for those hoping to settle in America and New York City, for many, signifies a first home and the *beginning of a new and better life.**

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# An Official Statue of Liberty Centennial Medal

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The medal's reverse is what makes the medal distinctive vs. non-licensed/non-authorized medals. It features a close-up view of Liberty's upraised arm/hand with her firm grasp on the torch that is lighting the path to freedom. The torch's flame is represented by a small piece of copper that was removed from the Statue during its restoration; it is affixed to the medal with epoxy glue vs. being struck in. Also seen is the famous quote "I lift my lamp beside the golden door" taken from the poem "The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus. The poem was written in 1883 to help raise funds for construction of the pedestal for the Statue of Liberty; a bronze plaque featuring the poem is on display within the statue's pedestal.

The medal's designs are the work of American artist-sculptor Anthony Jones. Mr. Jones became a professional artist in 1968 and enjoyed a successful career as a wildlife artist who was known for the true-to-life realism of his sculptures. He brought the same level of detail to his medallic work, sculpting many pieces for the Franklin Mint (FM). While much of his work for FM featured wildlife scenes, he also created a number of historical commemorative medals and holiday ingots.

The 38mm medal was struck by the Specialty Metals division of Engelhard Corporation. It was available in platinum (Maximum Mintage: 1,000 / Price: \$1,500), silver-plated bronze (??? / \$19.95), gold-plated bronze (100,000 / \$29.50) and 0.999 fine silver (??? / \$55.00); the silver medal is one troy ounce. Postage and handling charges were additional and ranged from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per piece.

As an official commemorative of the SOLEIF, the medal was meant to serve as a fundraiser. A portion of the proceeds from each medal sale was given to the Foundation for its restoration and preservation efforts.

I have never seen final mintages / sales figures for the various medals (they are likely non-existent at this point), but I would suggest that they are far less than the advertised maximums as the medals are infrequently encountered in the market place.

I enjoy collecting Statue of Liberty themed coins, medals and rounds. Of the 50 or so that I have in my collection, this one is among my favorites. I like the message the design presents, and I like the fact that it was an authorized piece that generated funds for the Statue's restoration vs. a simple money grab by an unaffiliated third party.

Questions or comments? Please contact me via email at: [uscommems@gmail.com](mailto:uscommems@gmail.com).

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The End



# FRACTIONAL SILVER BARS

By Phil Wyatt #981

I still remember the first time I ever laid eyes on a fractional silver bar many years ago. It was a Johnson Matthey 5 gram silver bar that was an exact replica of it's larger 1oz "big brother". I remember being fascinated by not only it's size, but amazing detail as well, and was very curious as to why something like this even existed at all! After all, silver was around 5 bucks an ounce at the time, so this little bar only had less than a buck worth of silver in it. I also remember the "sticker shock" of having to pay \$5 for it, which was almost as much as a regular 1oz bar cost back then, but I absolutely HAD to have it! And so began my long and enthusiastic passion of collecting these amazing little bars.

So why DO these exist? Certainly they were not meant as bullion investments, right? Well, yes and no. For those who have either lived through it, or simply have read up on it, there were 3 brothers named Nelson, William, and Lamar Hunt. Starting in the early 1970's, and up through late 1979, these brothers started to accumulate massive quantities of silver in an effort to manipulate the spot price of the metal. Their efforts resulted in the price of silver spiking briefly to almost \$50 per ounce in 1980! In response to these previously unheard of prices, a few major metal refiners such as Johnson Matthey and Engelhard began to mint sub 1oz silver art bars, or what we today commonly call "fractionals" or fracs for short. At \$50 per ounce, that would make a 5 gram silver bar worth about \$8 in 1980, which if adjusted for inflation would be approximately \$26 in today's money! So in a sense, these diminutive silver bars actually did serve a purpose as a bullion investment vehicle for the common man who may have not been able to afford an entire ounce of silver back then. Unfortunately for the Hunt brothers, their plan did not work out too well. Silver prices fell as quickly as they had risen, and the brothers were charged with market manipulation and eventually ended up in bankruptcy. The interesting result of this quick rise and fall of silver pricing led to what is probably the biggest "melt cycle" of our lifetime though! As people lined up outside of coin shops to unload everything they had that was made of silver, countless treasures were unceremoniously shipped off to refiners across the nation, to be melted down and turned into other bars. And on the downslide of prices, many of these fractional bars became simply impractical, and were shipped off to refineries to be melted as well.

Fortunately for collectors, many of these bars survived the Great Melt, and have become quite appreciated as collectibles in recent years. A plethora of sizes, manufacturers, and designs all exist today. Bars ranging from 1 gram all the way up to 3/4oz are available to collect. Refiners such as JM, Engelhard, Pamp Suisse, Singapore Mint, and others have combined to give collectors many choices on what to pursue. Additionally, many private companies as well as banks have commissioned refiners such as JM to produce relatively tiny production runs of promotional bars for these companies to give away to their customers, creating even more choices, and adding to the difficulty of finding these often times very limited editions.

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# FRACTIONAL SILVER BARS

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Unfortunately, due to the recent price run ups in 2011, there has been a massive influx of newer, unmarked generic silver fractional bars in the marketplace over the past few years. These bars do not display any hallmark, but can feature basically any type of image from automobiles to firearms and despite being generic, have relatively high premiums attached to them. There is nothing wrong with collecting these types of bars, but in my opinion, it's much more like collecting "pogs" than it is collecting art bars!

With such a wide variety of sizes and refiners among these fractional bars, there really is something for everyone. From \$10-\$15 JM 5 gram bars for the novice or casual collector, to \$300+ JM 1/10th oz bars for the advanced collector....and a wide range in between. Mintage estimates on different varieties can be found on the website ALLENGELHARD, but those numbers should be used as a starting point, or guide only as my personal experience sometimes differs greatly with their estimates. The best advice I can give anyone who is new to fractionals and wants to learn more or possibly start collecting them is to do your research. Get a general feel for how many of a certain type are always available, and which bars are so seldom available that there is almost no data on previous sales for example. Steer clear of the generics I've talked about, unless you can pick them up for very low premiums and just enjoy having different designs without regard to origin. And finally, and definitely most importantly, collect what you like! If you are not having fun in this hobby, you're doing something wrong. Happy hunting!

The End

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## Chaim Gross' Ten Commandments Sculpture Medals

by Simcha Kuritzky #857

The Ten Commandments (Aseret haDvarim, literally "ten words") have been a popular theme in art and numismatics for centuries. Usually they are represented by the words themselves (often in translation), or just the first two words in Hebrew of each commandment, or just the first word or letter. An unusual set of sculptures interprets the commandments visually. In 1970, the Joseph Meyerhoff foundation commissioned Chaim Gross to produce panels representing the Ten Commandments to decorate the JFK Airport synagogue. These were dedicated May 7, 1972. Each bronze panel contains a Hebrew letter (as numerals 1 through 10) and a semi-abstract representation of the particular commandment. These sculptures can still be seen today at Kennedy Airport in New York, though in a small chapel in Terminal 4. Chaim Gross also drew watercolors, and some of his work graces stamps and first-day covers. He produced to pencil and watercolor interpretations of the Ten Commandments as well as lithographs.

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## Chaim Gross' Ten Commandments Sculpture Medals

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There are two numismatic sets that portray these commandment sculptures: ten round medals, and ten irregular rectangular art bars mounted on a frame. Miniature versions of the ten sculptures attached to walnut tablets with a spring-loaded catch that fits into a groove in the inside rim of the bar were commissioned by the Judaic Heritage Society (JHS) for sale to the public for \$650. The ten 32x47mm irregular-shaped bars are pure silver plated in rhodium and platinum with 24 karat gold highlights. Each bar weighs between 1.05 and

1.17 Troy ounces, and are attached to the wooden base. A total of 5735 sets (referring to the Jewish year of issue) were made. Because of their unique design, these are the only JHS medals shown by Archie Kidd in his Indexed Guide Book of Silver Art Bars (fourth and fifth editions). Accompanying the set of bars was a book describing the Ten Commandments sculpture. It was printed in August, 1973 with commentary by Rabbi Israel Mowshowitz, and is an invaluable aid in interpreting the artwork.

The round medals were probably minted in 1975, a time of a minor boom in medallic art thanks to rising silver prices. Each medal is 51mm and contains around 91 grams of silver (almost 2.7 Troy ounces of pure silver) or 72.5 grams of bronze. The edge is either marked CHARTER EDITION .925 STERLING METAL ARTS CO. or THE METAL ARTS CO. INC., ROCH., N.Y. BRONZE. Metal Arts Company still exists in Rochester, New York but stopped striking medals in 2004. They now restrict their work to polishing and plating.



Each medal has a similar reverse. At top center is a Hebrew letter heh, which stands for HaShem, the Name of God, in a sunburst frame that represents light and truth radiating out from God. This figure was on the doors of the original Ark but is not in the new synagogue. At center is Chaim Gross' signature. At top is the legend THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, and at the bottom is the inscription identifying the number of the commandment on the obverse. What follows is a description of each commandment and its artwork, shown by the original sculpture, the ingot bar, and the round medal.

(continued on page 27)



# IASAC is Going to Orlando January 10-13, 2019

Orange County Convention Center

Rosen Inn at Pointe Orlando 855-467-7245 \$95.00  
Be sure to tell them you are attending the FUN Show. This hotel is 2nd hotel from the Convention Center. The hotels right next door are \$179 and \$169. There will be shuttles taking you to and from your hotel if you stay at any of these three hotels. Shuttle also goes to and from the Hyatt Regency.



Members, let's have a record turn out for this meeting. Lots to see in this area. Have fun hunting for silver bars and rounds.

Let Carrie know if you plan to attend the FUN show and what dates you will be there, your email or phone number and where you will be staying.

[IASACBugle@aol.com](mailto:IASACBugle@aol.com) 863-640-4840

# Price of Silver Contest



Send in your guess for the price of silver!!

Entries must be received, or Postmarked NO LATER than December 24, 2018. Price of silver will be taken December 31, 2018 at close of business day. Only 1 guess per membership number. Prizes awarded for 1st & 2nd place closest guess!!

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Price of Silver Guess \$\_\_\_\_\_.\_\_\_\_ Per Oz.

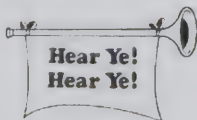
Price of Silver Guess \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Please send your entry**

**Randy Rush**

**P.O. Box 22**

**Lyerly, GA. 30730**



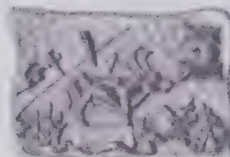
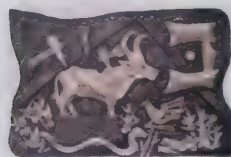


## Chaim Gross' Ten Commandments Sculpture Medals

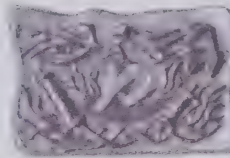
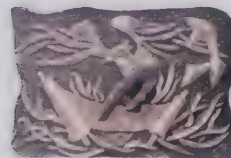
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The first commandment, by the Jewish and some Protestant denominations' reckoning, is "I am the Lord your God who brought you forth from Egypt. You will have no other gods." God is represented by the all-seeing eye at top left, and Egypt by the pyramid near the center and broken staff beneath it. A large letter  $\aleph$  alef stands for 1. Below the pyramid are the Israelites, being crushed by servitude in Egypt and helped by the beneficial rays emanating from the Eye of God, while the flames at right represent the purifying power of the word of God.

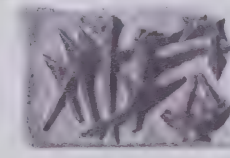
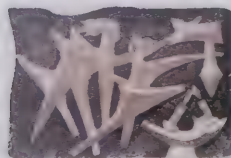


The second commandment prohibits worshipping graven images. In the center is the Golden calf being attacked by pick hammers. Below that is the snake as symbol of subversion, linking idolatry with adultery (a theme popular with Israel's prophets). At top right is the letter beyt, which is 2. Below the beyt is a dove, symbol of fidelity, which faces the opposite direction of the calf and snake.



The third commandment prohibits defaming God, which Gross interprets as adopting an untrue image of the Almighty. The Torah scroll represents God's Name, while God's pointing finger represents the revelation of God's truth in the affairs of humanity. Above is a bird with outstretched wings, raising the viewers gaze heavenward. At top right is gimel, which is 3.

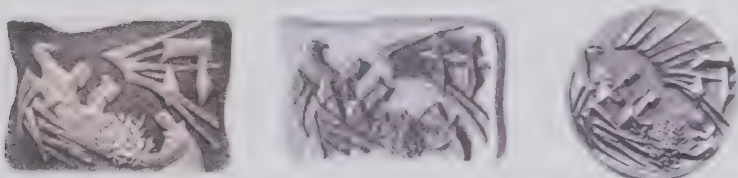
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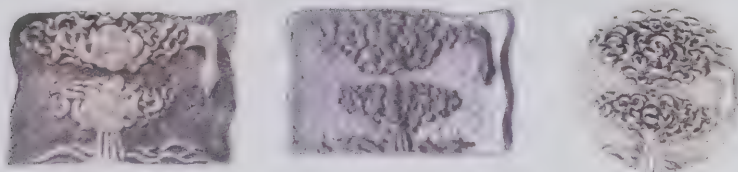
# Chaim Gross' Ten Commandments Sculpture Medals

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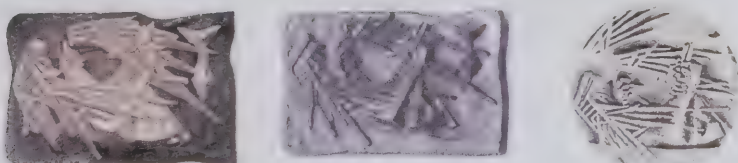
The fourth commandment establishes the Sabbath. At bottom right is a table with two candles. The rabbis created the tradition of lighting two candles to inaugurate the Sabbath and provide light during the evening when it is prohibited to light new fires. The figures at left are angels facing each other. According to legend, the one facing the candles is a good angel who blesses the observant family, and the angel facing away from the candles is an evil angel who is forced to say "Amen". If the family were not properly observing the Sabbath, the angels' roles would be reversed. At top right is  $\tau$  dalet, which represents the number 4.



The fifth commandment requires honoring one's parents. The figure at bottom right is the child, offering flowers and bowing before the two figures at the left which are the father and mother. The dove, a symbol of love, rests behind the parents. At top left is  $\eta$  heh, here representing the number 5.



The sixth commandment prohibits murder. The Talmud says that murdering one person is like murdering a world, so Gross chose to represent murder with the mushroom cloud of an atom bomb, the greatest killing machine humanity has devised, indiscriminately destroying the innocent with the guilty. At the center right is  $\nu$  vov, here representing the number 6.



The seventh commandment prohibits adultery. The faint lines in the background represent the outline of a house. Many birds are naturally monogamous. These two birds are mated to others. As a potentially adulterous couple they are both attracted to each other (note their heads and necks form a heart shape) but also held apart by their feelings for their mates. Wings, representing angels and resistance to temptation, separate their heads. At the far top right is zayin, here representing the number 7.

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## Chaim Gross' Ten Commandments Sculpture Medals

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The eighth commandment prohibits theft. The hand in the center is that of a thief, while the hand grappling with it from the left is the hand of justice. The stolen coins drop from the thief's hand, showing that dishonest gains are ephemeral. At the center right is ח khet, here representing the number 8.



The ninth commandment prohibits perjury. Along the bottom is a book representing Torah and truth. The flames which come from it dispel the darkness of ignorance. The Hebrew letter and book together form an oil lamp, also a symbol of truth. The powerful hand in the forefront fends off lies and demonstrates the power of truth. At the center right is ט tet, here representing the number 9.



The tenth commandment prohibits coveting. If we see something we want, we might covet it, so this commandment is represented by a hand covering a huge eye. Assisting the hand is an angel in bird form, whose wings block the eye. The angel's eye is wide open because it cannot sin. At top right is י yod, here representing the number 10.

Meyerhoff's largesse allowed Gross's artistic genius to grace the walls of the JFK Airport synagogue. If you are one of the lucky few, you can even own a medal based on this artwork.

The End

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# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

## International Association of Silver Art Collectors

The International Association of Silver Art Collectors (IASAC), established in 1985, is dedicated to the silver art bar and round hobbyist, collector, dealer and producer. All persons interested in this unique hobby are invited to join. The club regularly publishes the newsletter *The Silver Bugle*, providing some of the most interesting reading for you, the member. Not only do you receive advanced notice of new rounds and bars, you may also take advantage of specials offered by the many IASAC member-dealers. We also produce limited edition silver bars and rounds for our members and feature special contests for prizes. Isn't it time for you to take advantage of the benefits available as a member of IASAC?

I would like to become a member of the largest silver art club in the world, please enroll me today!  
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By accepting membership in IASAC, I agree to abide by the bylaws of the club and to act with integrity in all business transactions.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

REFERRED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

My Email is: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ May we publish your email?

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Junior members, age 17 and younger are also welcomed, with permission of their parent or guardian. Junior members do not have voting rights and dues are half that of regular members.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Mail to: IASAC, PO Box 5202, Lakeland, FL 33807-5202**

Dues are \$20 the first year; renewals are \$15/year;

International rates are \$30 first year; renewals are \$20/year.

Life membership is \$300.00. International-Life is \$400.00

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# IASAC is Going to Orlando January 10-13, 2019



*Merry Christmas*

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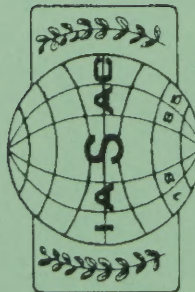
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